recommendation letter) on the basis of their service records. However, services of Dr. A.K. Bhardwaj who was initially appointed on monthly wage/contract basis have been regularized with effect from the date of his initial appointment. The matter regarding granting same benefits to other similarly placed officers has been taken up with the Department of Personnel and Training and Ministry of Law and Justice.

Bed patient ratio in hospitals

†4530. SHRI LAJPAT RAI :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the bed patient ratio in the country is less than WHO's norms;

(b) if so, the ratio of beds and patients as per WHO's norms;

(c) what is this average in India at present; and

(d) by when the above ratio is proposed to be achieved by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The World Health Organization has informed that they have not set any norms for the bed-patient ratio. Besides, Bed patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient-care required *viz.*, indoor/outdoor.

Import of unsafe food items

4531. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is vulnerable to unsafe food imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.